

Phila. 6/16/41.

My Dear Brother, Yours of the 11th inst., reached me day before yesterday, & till today I have been too fully occupied with other matters, to find time for commencing a reply. I am sorry it is not now in my power to give such an one as you wish. It would give me more pleasure than I can describe, to be with you at the approaching Convention, & I should earnestly wish to be there, if wishing could do any good. But before your letter arrived, I had written to Montrose, authorizing an appointment to be made for me there on the 5th, & had sent word to another place near there, that if it were desired I would be there on the 3^d & 4th. So you see it would be impossible for me to be in Vermont on the 1st. I regret it exceedingly. Had I known a few days earlier, of any special reasons for being at your meeting, it would not have been difficult, so to have planned as to be there, for I expect to leave the city on or about the 1st, ~~for~~ to be absent four months. It would have been easy to start there one four days earlier than I had contemplated, & my plan could speedily have been so changed as to conform to your wishes. But it is too late now - I strongly hope - perhaps it would be safe to say I rather expect to be with you before my return, provided your Vermonters are disposed to accede to such terms as I have proposed to others. Your personal share of assent I feel pretty sure of, but it is not every one who feels the kind interest in me which you have manifested. My proposition to the Northern Pennsylvania people was, that I would lecture among them a short time, if they would contribute to the funds of the Society enough at least to pay my salary & traveling expenses from the time of leaving the city to my departure from their region, & as much more as they feel it right to give. I propose to go to Western Pennsylvania, if the friends there will pay from my last previous point paid to, up to my leaving them - & do what more they can,

I shall make the same proposal to our friends in Ohio & Western New York. I think my offer to your people must be this. After getting to Albany, on my homeward route from the West, I will turn aside to your state, enter it near the lake, labor a few days in the region about your residence, & pass through south-eastwardly to N.H., lecturing at various points along the route, as many times as I can in the space of ten or fifteen days, (I cannot be sure of more); if the abolitionists there will give to the American A.S. Society as much as will pay my salary & expenses from Albany to the point at which I leave the state, & in addition to that, as much more as it may be in their hearts to give. If I feel when there as though I could spare you more time than I have named, I will do it, but can now promise none. I do not expect this arrangement to be made with the Committee of your State Society unless they prefer it, but an understanding with a sufficient number of prominent & active abolitionists to satisfy you of the propriety of authorising me to come will answer all needful purposes. I sh^d.
(if they have no objection to giving it)
like however, to have the assent of the Committee to my lecturing & collecting funds in the state, so that my labors might not be regarded as in anything like rivalry of theirs. Should I succeed in collecting funds, they could be appropriated to the American or the State Society, as the respective donors might prefer. I expect to act as agent of the American Society throughout the route, after leaving Eastern Pa., but should willingly act in each State as agent of its Society also, if it were desired. Should I come, there will be time to arrange details hereafter, as my previous visit to Ohio & Western N.Y. will consume probably ^{much if any} not less than three months, so that I shall hardly reach Vt. before the beginning of 10th month. Now you can consult as you have opportunity, such of the abolitionists as you think proper, & when you have learned enough of the general feeling about my proposal to satisfy your own mind,

write me your decision. I suppose most of the thorough old organization folks would approve the plan if they are not too few to sustain their part of it - & possibly some who are not as thorough as we could wish, may assent to & help execute it. I need not tell you how very pleasant it would be to me, to make such a visit - & if possible a much longer one - to Vt., & I doubt not there are some beside yourself & family, who would share the pleasure with me. As to those who as you intimate, would much prefer my absence to my presence, I should be sorry of course to disoblige them, but recognising no right in them to control my movements, & cherishing kindly feelings toward them while declining to be governed by their preference, I should even leave them to "philosophise themselves into patience" as best they might.

Tell Rachel I have received & read with lively interest, her last two letters, one from N.Y. & the other from home, & that I purpose to answer them as soon as I can find time. They were exceedingly welcome, & rejoiced my heart as cold water rejoices a thirsty soul. I wish I could immediately put pen to a folio post sheet, & make her a suitable return, but that I cannot do. It was truly pleasant to me to hear of your dear Amie's convalescence, & of Thomas' escape with life & so comparatively little injury, from the imminent danger to which he was exposed. I was glad too, to see you, in imagination, once more quietly settled in your happy home, enjoying the society of all your loved ones, & blessing the goodness which had preserved them through the perils which ever beset the path of mortals, & brought you again among them safe & well.

The account of the Yearly Meeting, & of the Association of Friends was interesting - & the more so as my stop in N.Y. on my return was so short, & there were so many other things to talk about, that I did not hear much about them, or know what had been said or done. I think Geo. F. White has acted with some show of consistency at least, in leaving the Indiana Committee, & if his notions of "rest" would reach so far as to induce him to rest from his labors in the gallery henceforth & forever, I apprehend no

very serious loss to the Society. He would be more missed than mourned by all who have a correct appreciation of true gospel preaching, if he should from this time forth remain silent in his seat while his natural life & his attendance of meetings shall continue.

Glancing over Rachels last, again, I perceive that she inquires about my cough. But for seeing the inquiry, I should have said nothing about it, for it is so long since I have had a cough, that I had entirely forgotten

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Vt.



faces. But I have long ago learned that inclination & duty can only be brought into the same path, by putting duty before inclination, & bidding the other follow - or at all events by giving duty the reins of the lead. However, though often get on the same track, yet I think somewhat less of that they will in my regard to my hoped visit to Vermont in the fall.

Give my love, warm & abundant to all the members of your family, from little Newland upward - & to your Mother & all my affectionate friends in your region & you have opportunity. I should always be glad to hear from you, & shall feel pleasure in writing to you when I can find time. If you send a letter some example to get back by the 29th inst. direct at least for it not to be sent, as I read in my time previous to the 15th of next month. After that up to 29th inst. I shall look to effecting City & Co. Providence. Yours truly, &c. &c. M. W. L.

it. I have not coughed for several weeks, as I can remember, & my general health is quite as good, I believe, as when I parted from her. The very warm weather of the few days which followed my getting home to Phila, was oppressive & made me feel somewhat languid, but now we have delightful weather - agreeably cool & beautifully bright. How I should enjoy it, up among your hills & in the society of the dear friends who dwell there! If my own inclinations alone were to be consulted, it would be a "mighty short" time before I should be snuffing the Green Mountain breezes, & tasting the hospitality of your cheerful home, & rejoicing in the light of its happy